Barnboo, May 29/59

My dear Cousin:

Your last letter was rec'd in due time, but as you did not say anything about my writing again I thought I would not be in a hurry; so I have waited until I expect you are almost dead you want to hear from me so badly - I dont believe though, you want to hear from us half as much as I want to see you - we have missed you more since you went away this time than ever before - Oph have you heard the news, that there is an addition to the Lucas family not exactly here, but over to brother Joe's a little gal and a nice one to I can tell you, and you may be sure they are some tickled, especially Jo. By the way its name is Martha; I 'spose" you would prefer Betsy, but then you can call all yours by that name you know, or Amanda j'ust which suits you best; I might as well speak my mind now about the Plummer girls as to write a whole letter

I'm coming to the point — the long and short of it is Eph I shall never give my consent for you and Dave to make yer pilots at the Sandwich House I cannot stop to enter into particulars, but you may have my reasons some other time if you are at all anxious And now for something besides Plummers — where are you — what are you doing and when are you coming home? you state you were going up river but I cannot learn as you have been. I am afraid you will get the ague again but I hope you will be careful and not be out nights nor drink whiskey you see Ephraim you need some one to look after you — but as I am not near I shall have to write often and impress it on your mind to be steady Yes Eph do be steady for my sake if no one else for you know I feel a great interest in your welfare, more than in that of many other friends who are as near as yours the reason I suppose is that they are not as dear —

Please give my love to Tim and tell him when he and Nellie get to housekeeping they may expect a visit from me - tell him to have ready a good chair for me to sit in & I promise to write me

June 6 - The whole week has passed and I have never looked at this letter during that time for the reason that I have been so busy - I do not find much time for writing, reading or thinking even - for you know I have quite a family on my hands a larger one than I ever intended to have; but you know we all have our trials in this life; some in one way and some in another, and in different ways at different periods of life; so I presume yours are of a ~~stry~~ class or kind quite unlike mine - It could not be at all strange, taking into consideration the fact that I am and old married woman and you a young man with a heart full of joy and bright anticipations of the future - Oh how diverse are the channels of our lives, yet all terminating in the great ocean of eternity - Oh, well for us to call to mind often the fact that we are not placed here to live forever, but to prepare ourselves for a life which shall never end - It is now past 10 o'clock and I must close for tomorrow is washday and I shall be obliged to rise early - so good bye till I hear from you again which I hope to do soon — Mary

Please gi
my Lord la
Jim and
tell him wh
he and Nell
get to house
keeping the
may expect h
visit from
me - Tell
him too tha
I have never
got that lett
he promised
to write me